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ENG 3600-001: The Bible as Literature

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English 3600: The Bible as Literature
Spring 2002

Instructor: **David Raybin**

Office: **3761 [324] Coleman Hall**

Office Hours: **Tu 11-12; W 9-12** (and by appointment)

Telephone: **581-6980** (office); **330/678-2628** (home, weekends before 8:30)

Electronic Mail: **cfdb@eiuh.edu**

Texts: Wayne A. Meeks, gen. ed. *The HarperCollins Study Bible. The New Revised Standard Version*
Robert Alter and Frank Kermode, eds. *The Literary Guide to the Bible*
Robert Alter and Leland Koenig, eds. *Chapters into Verse*
Ariel Bloch and Chana Bloch, eds. and trans. *The Song of Songs*

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

January 8: Introduction to the course; historical background

The Hebrew Scriptures: Genesis

15: **Genesis** (cont.)

22: **Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers**

29: **Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges**

February 5: **1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings**

12: **Isaiah, Jeremiah**

19: **Ezekiel, The Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)**

26: **Psalms, Proverbs**

March 5: **Job, Song of Solomon, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes**
Bloch and Bloch, *Song of Songs*

12: Spring Vacation

19: **Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah, 1 & 2 Chronicles**

26: *Apocryphal Deuterocanonical Books: Tobit, Judith, Additions to the Book of Esther, Wisdom of Solomon, Ecclesiasticus, Baruch, Letter of Jeremiah, Additions to the Book of Daniel (Prayer of Azar, Susanna, Bel and the Dragon), 1 & 2 Maccabees*

April 2: **1 Esdras, Prayer of Manasseh, Psalm 151, 3 Macc, 2 Esdras, 4 Macc**
** Last Day to Turn in Essay **

9: *The New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*

16: **Acts of the Apostles, The Pauline Epistles (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon)**

23: **Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation**

30: Final Examination: 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Course Description

The Bible is the most widely read, widely translated, widely owned, and widely commented-on book in the world. As a literary text, it has influenced almost every western writer for the past two thousand years. In this class we will read the book's first edition (*The Hebrew Scriptures*), material which early editors omitted from the first edition (the Apocrypha), and the major sequel (*The New Testament*). Immersing ourselves in the Bible's many genres and tones, its diverse styles and voices, we will discover what still after so many centuries remains an extraordinarily compelling literary art.

Course Requirements and Grading

Final grades will be determined on a 100-point scale:

Essay	20 points
Reading Quizzes/Study Sheets	40 points
Final Exam	30 points
Participation	10 points

Course Grade: **A**= 90-100; **B**= 80-89.99; **C**= 70-79.99; **D**= 60-60.99; **F**= below 60

Essay: Your essay should be about **5 pages** long (ca. 1500 words). Grading will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it. A handout will describe the assignment more fully.

Reading Quizzes/Study Sheets. Quizzes and study sheets are intended to encourage you to prepare carefully and thoughtfully for each class session. Quizzes may not be made up without an authorized absence.

Final Exam. A comprehensive test will encourage you to rethink, organize, and articulate your understanding of the Bible as a work of literature.

Participation. This is not a lecture class. I expect you to offer sensible contributions to the classroom discussion.

Course/University Policies

Typing. Your essay must be typed (double-spaced with one-inch margins).

Honor Policy. Education depends on trust. Should you cheat and I find out about it, you can expect to fail the course. The University may take additional action.

Plagiarism. If you use other people's words or ideas without citing your sources and indicating when you have quoted, you risk failing an assignment or even the course depending on how serious I deem the offense. If you are not sure what plagiarism is, or whether a particular use of language constitutes plagiarism, ask me before you turn in an assignment.

Students with Disabilities. "If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible."